

N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]

Honorable Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office 2011 South Clark Place Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03 Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

- 1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed:
- [X] A. within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application.

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- [X] B. before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.
- [] C. after (A) and (B) above, but before final rejection or allowance, and Applicants have made the necessary certification (box "i" below) or paid the necessary fee (box "ii" below).
 - [] i. Counsel certifies that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either
 - [] (a) first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
 - [] (b) not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.
 - [] ii. Credit Card Payment Form, PTO-2038, is attached authorizing payment of the fee set forth in §1.17(p), presently believed to be \$180. If the enclosed payment is incorrect, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4035.
- [] D. after (A), (B) and (C) above, but before payment of the issue fee: Applicant(s) state as follows under

37 CFR §1.97(e) for consideration of this IDS, that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either

- [] (a) first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
 - [] (b) was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

A check (check no. _____) for/ Credit Card Payment Form, PTO-2038, is attached authorizing payment of the fee set forth in §1.17(i), presently believed to be \$180 is enclosed. If the enclosed payment is incorrect, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4035.

- 2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., Form PTO/SB/08A) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below.
- [] A. Document(s) ______ is (are) deemed substantially cumulative to document(s) ______, and, in accordance with §1.98(c), only a copy of each of the latter documents is enclosed.
- [] B. Certain documents were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the following prior application(s), which are relied upon under 35 U.S.C. 120:

In re Appln. No. 10/765,907

Applicant(s) identifies these documents by attaching hereto copies of the forms PTO-892 and PTO-1449 (or PTO/SB/08A) from the files of the prior application(s) or a fresh PTO-1449 (or PTO/SB/08A) listing these documents, and request that they be considered and made of record in accordance with §1.98(d). Per 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of these documents need not be filed in this application.

[] C. Document(s)	is	(are)	U.S.
patent(s) and/or published application(s). As	this	is a	U.S.
application filed after June 30, 2003, or	an e	entry	into
national stage under 35 USC §371 after June	30,	2003,	the
requirement to file copies of such U.S. patent	ts or	publ	ished
applications has been waived. (Office of	Pat	ent :	Legal
Administration - Pre O.G. Notice of July 11, 200	3).		

- 3. Documents <u>AA and AB</u> are not in the English language. In accordance with §1.98(c), Applicant states:
 - [X] An English translation of each document AA and AB (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.
 - [] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ is found in the attached _____ search report (see reply to Comment 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).
 - [] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ is set forth as follows:

(insert concise explanation of relevance)

In re Appln. No. 10/765,907

[]	A	concise	explanati	on	of	the	re	elevance	of
		dod	cument(s)		can	be	found	on	page(s)	_
		of	the speci	fication.						

- [] A concise explanation of document(s) ______
 can be found on the attached sheet.
- 4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).
- 5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:
- 6. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK

Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By:

Roger L. Browdy Req. No. 25,318

RLB:mch

624 Ninth Street, N.W., Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20001-5303

Telephone: (202)628-5197
Facsimile: (202)737-3528
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S. KA S. TOM	Substitute f	or form 1449A/PTO			Co	omplete if Known		
A.	NFO	RMATION D	ISC	LOSURE	Application Number	10/765,907		
/ b r	STAT	EMENT BY	ΛD	DISCANT	Filing Date	January 29, 2004		
WIENT BY	SIAI	CIVICIAL DI	AL:	PLICANT	First Named Inventor	Yoshiaki KUBO		
					Group Art Unit	_		
	(use as many sheets as necessary)		Examiner Name	-				
,	'Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	KUBO=2		

	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (If known)}	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear				
		US-							
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	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
		Foreign Patent Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	of Cited Document	Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Te				
	AA	JP-11-290154 A	October 26, 1999	BERTRAND FALL		xx				
				EKIPUMANTSU SOSHIETE ANONIMU						
	AB	JP 2001-500396	January 16, 2001	SON TURU		xx				
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Examiner	,	Date		
Signature	,	Considered	1	

^{*} EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁵ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.